Policy to control steel prices

2166. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking measures to control the prices of steel;

(b) if so, the measures taken in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) the number of times the prices of steel have been hiked since April 1, 2008 to till date;

(d) whether Government is contemplating to make a permanent policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government has taken various administrative as well as fiscal measures to stabilize price and supply of steel in the domestic market. The notable measures taken in this regard are as follows:

2007-08

a. Customs Duty on alloy steel reduced from 7.5% to 5% in the general budget 2007-08.

b. Customs Duty on seconds and defective category of steel items reduced from 20% to 10% in the general budget 2007-08.

c. Export Cess of Rs.300/tonne imposed on export of iron ore in general budget 2007-08 which was later revised and reduced to Rs.50/tonne on Iron Ore Fines with Fe content of 62% and less.

d. Customs Duty on Nickel, an important raw material for steel making, reduced from 5% to 2% in May 2007.

e. DEPB benefit on export of various categories of steel products was withdrawn *w.e.f.* 27.03.2008.

2008-09

a. Import Duty on all non-alloy steel, Zinc, ferro-alloys and metcoke revised to 'Nil' from 5% *w.e.f.* 29.4.08.

b. CVED on TMT bars and rounds modified to 'Nil' from 14%.

c. Export Duty was initially imposed on 10.5.08 on all flat products @ 15% on HR, 10% on CR, 5% on GP/GC and 10% on pipes and tubes. This was subsequently withdrawn on 13.06.2008.

d. Export duty @15% imposed on 10.05.2008 on Pig Iron, Sponge Iron, Scrap, Ingots and all categories of non-alloy semi finished steel.

e. Export Duty @ 10% was imposed on long products such as bars, wire rods, angles etc., on 10.05.08. This was later revised to 15% *w.e.f.* 13.06.08.

f. Ad-valorem export duty of 15% imposed on iron ore of all categories and grades *w.e.f.* 13.06.2008.

(c) The month wise steel price movement in Delhi Retail Market during April 2008 to November 2008 is given in the table below.

(In Rs/ton)

Month	HR 2.0 mm	CR 0.63 cm	TMT 10 mm	Wire Rod 8 mm	Pig Iron	Pencil Ingot 100 mm
April 2008	49000	52000	46000	43600	34500	38300
May 2008	43000	45000	38200	38000	32400	33000
June 2008	50045	49492	47451	45925	32900	39650
July 2008	45327	48145	43335	43738	35397	38168
August 2008	45477	48145	42727	43073	36873	35366
September 2008	45327	48700	41934	43664	36000	35300
October 2008	44984	47119	40253	41726	34947	29300
November 2008	41977	42392	38846	40105	29164	27221

Monthly prices as on 15th of the corresponding month

Source: JPC

(d) and (e) Steel is a deregulated sector and steel prices are determined by the market based on factors like demand and supply situation, landed cost of imports, input costs and price and availability of substitutes etc. The Government, as a facilitator, takes administrative and fiscal measures whenever required to ensure stability in price and supply of steel in the domestic market.

Dumping of steel and hot rolled steel products

2167. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether stainless steel and hot rolled products of steel have been dumped in the country by few countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether anti-dumping duty is being imposed on those products retrospectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The import figures of stainless steel and hot rolled products during April- November 2008 are given in the table below. The figures indicate that there has been a growth in import in these categories during April-November 2008 compared to April - November 2007.

(In 000 tones)

Category	April-November 2008	April-November 2007
HR Sheets	44.4	21.1
HR Coil/Strip	2056.2	1570.3
Stainless Steel	130.3	115.6

Source: JPC